RNA FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

October, 1996

232 Ogden Avenue - Jersey City, N.J. 07307 - (201) 798-0493

RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION OR ELECTED OFFICIAL

MEETING MINUTES for September 10, 1996

COMMUNITY POLICE: Officers Scott Shnee and Lorenzo Tosado reported on the month's previous occurrences. They now patrol our neighborhood on SDS police bikes, and report increased speed and efficiency on their patrols. Disorderly groups at various locations in the neighborhood have been continuously warned and broken up. A warning was given to the plumbers supply shop, located off Bowers and Palisade, about letting their dog run loose in the Park.

The building at 454 Palisade Avenue is being rented out to new tenants, as opposed to the original report that the building was going to the boarded up and sold. There was concern that some of the same problems, such as drug dealing and pit bull dogs, might reappear if not watched.

The police were informed that the Gold Collision auto body shop on Griffith Street was reported as being open late into the evening with parking and doing repairs on the sidewalk. The police were also informed of a large hole in the fence at Bowers and Ogden, which is used by suspicious persons to travel to Holland Street and the Hoboken projects.

Louie Ramos, who caretakes the Moore Park on Cuneo Place, reported incidents of kids climbing the fences after the Park closes at 9 PM.

NID BUSINESS: Ufredo Merchan, our NID manager was on hand to discuss what he has done in our neighborhood and listen to problems.

Parks: Last month, Ufredo had traffic signs installed in our two Parks: Riverview-Fisk and Janet Moore. Unfortunately, he was advised of the poor placements of these signs in both Parks. He was already aware of the problem and will endeavor to relocate the signs.

He was also informed of a number of problems concerning our community gardens, including, the promised top soil which was never delivered and the inability to attach standard garden hoses to the nearby fire hydrant in order to water the garden plots.

(continued on page 2)

RNA COMMUNITY GARDEN

This year the RNA gardens in Riverview-Fisk Park truly became a community garden. No longer just an RNA experiment, the garden is an accepted and valued part of the Palisade and Griffith neighborhood. Even though the idea was conceived by RNA, most of the people who use, help maintain, or just appreciate the garden aren't even aware that RNA exists. So our goal of positive community outreach beyond the membership of RNA has been met. In another neighborhood a community garden would be no big deal. But at this intersection it is vital, being almost the only positive activity that seems to be going on. The garden has had a beneficial effect on all but the most jaded here with just about every wild kid in the park getting caught up in it at some point. In general all the kids acted a little less crazy after working with plants and earth. We dealt with vandals this year by giving them trust and responsibility. Except for one kid this approach was entirely successful. Anyway, all kids act up.

We're learning as we go along and of course there were some mistakes this year. The most common complaint was no Wednesday night open garden meeting like we had last year. We wanted to see if people would organize and meet on their own without Clare or I but it just isn't ready for that yet. So next year we will again add a weeknight open garden meeting. Also the center garden was rather weedy and disorganized.

(continued on page three)

COMING EVENTS ----------

1. **RNA Meeting: Tuesday, OCTOBER 8th 7:15 PM**
   LOCATION: THE HARBOR VIEW HEALTH CARE CENTER
   Guest Speakers:
   a) Councilwoman Nancy Gaynor, Ward C
   b) Councilman Bill Gaughan, Ward D
   c) Community Service Police Report

2. **OPEN HOUSE & RECEPTION:**
   Christ Hospital's Medical Clinic (located in the PSE&G Building at Palisade Avenue & WoodsPlace): **Thursday, October 17, 9:30 AM**

(**Meeting Minutes** continued from page one)

NID BUSINESS: (continued)

Dumpster Weekend and Garbage Containers: Ufredo will be coordinating a dumpster weekend with RNA, which will provide two city dumpsters in our neighborhood for any one to discard their large debris. Watch for the announcement of the dates and locations.

Ufredo is also working on the placement of additional garbage containers for our street corners. Members recommended the following locations: New York Avenue and Franklin Street, Griffith Street and Palisade Avenue and Franklin and Palisade (one for each corner of that intersection). He stated that the City is still choosing a functional design for the containers.

Potholes: The following locations were given to Ufredo to repair potholes: 427 Ogden, 443 Ogden and Hobson Street between Palisade and Ogden.

NID Manager: It was also noted that Ufredo's job and area of management is becoming quite difficult to manage effectively. However, it is imperative that the lines of communication are strengthened between Ufredo and the RNA.

If anyone has questions or problems, contact Ufredo at **547-4974, ext. 8015** and leave a message on his voice mail. Give your name, address and telephone number so that he can return the call and follow-up on the question or problem.

Palisade Avenue Treescape Program: There was a discussion regarding the planned fall planting of trees on Palisade Avenue. The RNA 's program is being funded by a CDBG grant and is seperate and distinct from the City's "Clean and Green Initiative". The RNA program will plant a tree in front of any property located on Palisade Avenue, located between Patterson Plank Road and Franklin Street FREE of CHARGE. All that is required is permission of the property owner. The City will plant a young tree and also install a tree guard and raindrain.

If any Palisade Avenue resident is interested in applying for this free planting, please come to the next RNA meeting or write to RNA, 232 Ogden Avenue.

At present, the grant only covers Palisade Avenue. However, if there is any money remaining, RNA will propose to include Ogden Avenue in this program.

PROPOSED FIRE STATION: The future of the vacant lot on the corner of Palisade Avenue and Congress Street - previously a gas station - was discussed. The Heights council representatives' proposal that this site be bought by the City and a state-of-the-art fire station be built was well received by the present membership. It was decided to found out the status of this proposal.

MOUNTAIN ROAD & HOLLAND STREET: John Mucha is the City engineer in charge of two local road renovations: Mountain Road and Holland Street. The Mountain Road project was temporarily delayed because of limited manpower in the Engineering Department. The renovation design which should have been finalized this fall, will not be ready until the spring of 1997. He expected that a contract would be awarded and work would finally begin during the summer of 1997. The project is funded with a state grant of $615,000.00.

There was no work being done on Holland Street, but Much a expected that work would begin after Mountain Road was complete. The Holland Street renovation was being funded by a $175,000.00 state grant.

DON'T DRINK THE WATER: Several members complained about the lack of information following the recent shut-down of the Jersey City water treatment plant in Boonton, New Jersey and the danger of drinking the untreated water for several days. It was decided to ask a representative from the City and United Water about this important problem. The question was why there was so little information given to the average resident about this health problem and what will be done in the future if this problem happens again to alert the citizenry.

Clare Archer, Acting Secretary

GOOD FRIENDS AND PARKING SPACES CAN MAKE FOR STRANGE NEIGHBORS

If a friend of RNA hadn't been sitting in on a City Council meeting last month, none of us on Ogden Avenue and no one at the Riverview Neighborhood Association would have heard the news. The City Council had passed a resolution to make the property from#178 to the end of the block a loading zone. This would, in effect, eliminate approximately ten parking spaces - spaces which are fast disappearing due to Christ Hospital's new clinic.

Fortunately, a copy of this resolution, which was vague about what hours and days would be involved, reached RNA. When called, the council person's office said they knew nothing about it, even though Nancy Gaynor is listed as having voted for it.

Our good neighbor, the Harbor View Health Care Facility initiated this restrictive resolution for their own convenience. Apparently, they were unhappy with the present system for making deliveries. This, despite their ample parking lot and wide entrance at #178 Ogden Avenue.

The new administrator from Harbor View was invited to attend the September RNA monthly meeting to discuss the member with the members. However, she did not attend the meeting.

The concern of the local residents is that this is an unnecessary elimination of street parking which is their primary source of parking for their family vehicles. It is assumed that this issue can be peacefully resolved between the Harbor View and RNA.

As a result of RNA's inquiry, the resolution to restrict parking by designating a new loading zone on Ogden "has been put on hold." However, if the residents do not continue to ask about it, this will certainly be implemented. Is this want you want?

Rosemary Venter

(**COMMUNITY GARDENS** continued from page one)

We hoped someone would take on the small amount of work required to keep the center garden tidy, but it just didn't happen. With all the mulching that we did in the spring there is only about an hour of weeding needed per week for all the gardens in the park. Perhaps next year two or three people could spend about 20 minutes each week on weeding.

Not only was the garden beautiful to look at but it produced a truck load of vegetables. A lot of people are eating fresh home grown tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplants, squash and even artichokes. For some reason no one had much luck with peppers. Go figure.

Over the course of the summer several people expressed the opinion that there is no hope for my intersection and that it should be knocked down or burned. I think that this opinion is racist and I'm happy to say that these losers are wrong. People are the same no matter what country they come from. The families and homes on Palisade Avenue are just as valuable as those on Ogden Avenue. We are not trash and we are not expendable. The positive changes on the Avenue come in small increments, and RNA has the right to be proud of the improvements we have fought for and achieved. We have also earned the right to laugh at those few people who still say it can't or shouldn't be a safe clean place where families can live in peace. After all, we're not fighting a war, we are building a neighborhood.

Thanks to all who helped make the garden a success this year, including Dorothy and Yogi Rosario, and especially Louis Ramos for showing the whole neighborhood how to grow vegetables. Thanks also to Allison Fontana Ferrara for providing the beautiful park bench. And thanks to my partner Clare Archer: without her help and expertise this would not have been possible.

Anyone with ideas or suggestions for next year's garden can call me at 792-6390. Thanks again, and see you in the garden next spring.

Greg Brickey

THE 1996 SUMMER BASKETBALL LEAGUE

The Summer Basketball League in Riverview-Fisk Park has completed another successful season. Once again, team play has earned top spots to the "Palisade Homeboys" in the biddy division and the "Wildcats" in the junior division. All received medals to acknowledge their accomplishments.

RNA would like to thank the Jersey City Department of Recreation and in particular, Director Joan Earls, Joe Macchi, Frank Francine for their sponsorship. We would also like to extend our gratitude to site manager Kevin and his fellow workers, Ron, Julio and Carlos. A special thanks to all the volunteers, including Cindy, Aida, Priscilla, Ben, Pedro, Victor, Louis, Chris, Alex, Robert Hill and Steven Bach for their assistance in another winning season at play.

RNA would also like to thank Christ Hospital, Councilman Bill Gaughan for their contributions to coach development and to the New York Yankees, Sony's Theatres and Nancy Curtiss for their respective donations of game and theatre passes which were used to thank our volunteers and coaches.

We are always looking for volunteer coaches for next season. If interested, contact Patrick Moore at the next RNA meeting.

Patrick Moore

LETTER to the EDITOR

For the first time, Dickinson High School gave an award to the best history student at the urging of the teacher of the year, Mrs. Barbara Petrick. It is about time that the importance of teaching and learning about history, national and international, is being recognized. When traveling through foreign countries, whether in Europe or Asia, it is amazing how much the students of those countries know about the history of our country. Their elders are using their knowledge daily in their business dealings. The lack of knowledge by our own people put them at a disadvantage from the start.

I would also like to mention the Dickinson award is named after a man who spent a good deal of his life trying to instill the love of history, especially that of Jersey City and Hudson County, in the young. He often said that it was worth it if he could reach just one youngster in a group.

He was an alumnus of Dickinson High School, of which he spoke with the highest regard and fondness to the end.

The award is named the Theodore Conrad History Award. Of the many awards he received during his lifetime he would have counted the recognition by his Alma Mater at the top of the list.

Ruth Conrad

RNA ZONING SURVEY

In the beginning of the summer, several RNA members volunteered to make zoning surveys of their individual blocks. We still need block surveys for several areas in our neighborhood, namely Palisade Avenue and parts of Ogden Avenue. If anyone is interested in helping with this project, please come to the October meeting or contact RNA.

The purpose of this zoning survey is to help the City planning department in updating their master zoning map to better reflect the residential character of our community. This will help protect our neighborhood from any future large scale development.

HUDSON CRADLE

Hudson Cradle is a Home for Infants that provides nurturing care to drug exposed and HIV affected babies. To continuing providing high quality infant residential care, the Cradle needs financial contributions and/or donations of clothing and supplies, such as diapers, babywipes and soap.

If you would like to make a contribution or donation, please contact the Hudson Cradle, at 1805 Kennedy Blvd., Jersey City, New Jersey 07305.

Bulletin board

JOIN THE SDS BIKE CLUB

Mad about bikes? If you are interested in joining others on mountain bike trails, learning more about repairing and maintaining your bike, or would like to get involved in the placement of designated bike lanes in Jersey City, call **656-5472** or visit **Tony Scarpa** at the famous **SDS Bike Shop** at 351 Palisade Avenue.

From Valerie's Kitchen:

Mrs. Eisenhower's Pumpkin Chiffon Pie

INGREDIENTS:

- 8 beaten egg yolks
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 1-1/2 cups cooked pumpkin
- 1 envelope plain gelatin
- 3 stiffly beaten egg whites
- 1/2 teaspoon ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/4 cup cold water
- 1/4 cup white sugar
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- salt

1) Combine egg yolks, brown sugar, pumpkin, milk, salt and spices.
2) Cook in double boiler until thick, stirring constantly.
3) Soak gelatin in cold water.
4) Stir into hot mixture.
5) Chill until partly set
6) Beat egg whites, add white sugar and beat stiff.
7) Fold into gelatin mixture.
8) Pour into pie shell and chill until set.
9) Garnish with whipped cream.

OCTOBER

The frost is on the Pumpkin,
Leaves are turning brown,
Goblins, ghosts and scarecrows
are getting ready for the
Treat or Treats -
Happy Halloween to all!

Madeline Rea

CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR NEWSLETTER

Drop off articles, comments or recipes in the mailbox, attached to the gate, at 232 Ogden Ave. Mark the envelope, "RNA NEWSLETTER." The next deadline is **Friday, October 25, 1996.**

POLICEBEAT

Residents can contact their **Community Service Police Officers Scott Schnee and Lorenzo Tosado** if they have a problem, a safety concern or knowledge of criminal activity at **547-5350** (the North District station's frontdesk) or **547-5719** (community service number). When leaving a message, include your name, telephone number, street address, the nature of the problem and a date and time of the message. All calls will be kept confidential.

In addition, anyone with information about illegal drug use and/or drug dealing, should contact the JCPD Narcotics Unit at 547-5391. Ask to speak to Sgt. Jimmy Melendez of the North District. All calls will be strictly confidential.

A **Community Service Survey** form is reprinted below. The purpose of the form is to alert the police to particular chronic problems in our neighborhood. Please fill the form out and mail it to the North District at 282 Central Avenue. (You can remain anonymous.)

JERSEY CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
NORTH DISTRICT
282 Central Avenue, Jersey City, 07307
547-5350: Front Desk
547-5719: Community Service

Community Service Survey

Residence_____School_____Business_____
Name:_____ CSO Post#_____
Address:_____ CSO Name:_____
Home Phone (optional):_____
Business/School Phone:_____

PROBLEMS/CONCERNS:

Disorderly Groups_____	Drug Activity_____
Loud Music_____	Abandoned Bldg_____
Traffic Conditions_____	Abandoned Cars_____
Parking Complaints_____	Noise Complaints_____
Animal Complaints_____	Other(Specify below)__

Other Problems:_____
_____
_____
Locations:_____
_____
Comments:_____
_____

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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SEE YOU AT OUR NEXT MEETING ON
October 8th at 7:15 PM at the
HARBOR VIEW HEALTH CARE CENTER.

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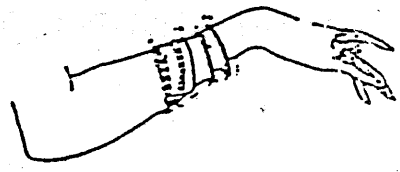

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MLS

Improve the Quality of Life in your Community:
Join RNA at our next meeting on
Tuesday, OCTOBER 8th at 7:15 PM

HAVE A SAFE
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HALLOWEEN

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FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RNA

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Chairperson

Greg Brickey
Vice-chairperson

Kathy Packard
Secretary

Jack Rea
Treasurer

Carol Rebelowski
Sgt. at Arms

HARBORVIEW HOLIDAY PARTY

Friday, November 22, 1996 is the date for this annual event for our neighbors in the Harborview Health Care Facility. This year's organizers will be Jack and Valerie Rea and Maria Tuzzo. They are looking for donations of small stuffed animals and dolls as well as the usual trial or sample size tioletries and hotel favors which will be given as presents to the residents.

Members passed a motion to buy food and other party favors and to pay for Frank Frega , the pianist for entertainment.

As usual, we will need volunteers to entertain and serve refreshments to the residents. Baked goods, including cookies and cake - both sugar and sugar-free are needed. Please donate your time and energy and make these residents feel wanted and part of our community.

HOLIDAY FOOD & TOY DRIVE

RNA is once again organizing its holiday drive for dry and/or canned goods and new and/or used toys. Monetary contributions can also be made and will be used to purchase either food or toys. All contributions will be given to the Salvation Army for distribution during the holiday season. Items can be brought to the next two RNA meetings or arrangements can be made to drop them off with Maria Tuzzo at 659-2245. Please give generously to those that are less fortunate.